

MEMORANDUM

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THE WHITE HOUSE ^{THE} PRESIDENT HAS SEEN...
WASHINGTON

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INFORMATION

September 29, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*

SUBJECT: Belgium's Reaction to the
Burundi Situation

What have we done?

You asked what the Belgian reaction was to the upheaval in Burundi. As a result of our contacts with the Belgian Government on this matter, we find that:

- Belgian public opinion and the Belgian Parliament have been critical of continued assistance to Burundi as a result of the mass killing, causing Foreign Minister Harmel to inform the Parliament that Belgium "will have to adjust its cooperation."
- Belgium, largely due to domestic pressure but also at U.S. and other foreign urging, stopped its flow of ammunition to Burundi. In July, the Government of Belgium told Burundi that formal bilateral teaching agreements would be required that would give Belgium the right to replace teachers and shift personnel as it requires and give the Belgian Ambassador the right to visit teachers throughout the country.
- Without agreement on these issues, the Belgian teaching mission would have to be recalled. Burundi will not agree to these seemingly modest requirements, believing that agreement will involve a loss of face.
- The Belgians also informed Burundi that the members of the Belgian military assistance team would have to be called back from their outlying posts and regrouped as a single unit which would have training as its sole purpose. This, too, has produced a negative reaction.

Negotiations are still going on. However, on September 22, Foreign Minister Harmel privately informed our Ambassador to Brussels that Belgium has decided to withdraw the military assistance team and that the teacher program might be terminated.

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E.O. 12958, Sect. 3.6

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PA/HO Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
April 21, 2005

By THM/KW NARA, Date 11/29/99